MARVEL
PSR 2
WHEDON
CASSADAY
ASTONISHING

WE GET REPORTS FROM NEIGHBORS ALL THE TIME.
COUPLE SCREAMING AT EACH OTHER...USUALLY THEY'VE HAD A FEW DRINKS. THEY NEED TO CALM DOWN. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE THERE TO ACCOMPLISH. BUT THEY SEE US AND IT JUST, YOU KNOW...IT CAN BE INFLAMMATORY.
THE UNIFORM.
ALWAYS GOTTA COMPENSATE. DEFUSE.
DEFUSE.
AAAGHLAAAAYYY!!!
GOD...
BACK DOOR! NOW!
OH. NO. NO.

Love, Megan

A CHILD'S MUTANT POWER USUALLY MANIFESTS AT PUBERTY. THIS WAS NOT THE CASE FOR TILDIE SOAMES.
CLICK
HER ABILITY TO MANIFEST HER OWN NIGHTMARES COST THE LIVES OF HER PARENTS, AS WELL AS OFFICER HOYT.
SHE UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS WAS NOT HER FAULT.
THIS BRAVE CHILD OFFERED TO WORK WITH US, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF HER GUARDIANS AND GOVERNMENT HEALTH AGENCIES, TO TEST BENETECH LAB'S NEW VACCINE.
IN THE COMING MONTHS, SHE WILL MAKE HERSELF AVAILABLE TO GENETIC TEAMS FROM EVERY NATION TO PROVE WHAT WE NOW CONCLUSIVELY KNOW.
THE MUTANT STRAIN CAN BE ELIMINATED. SAFELY AND IRREVERSIBLY.

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A SECOND CHANCE.

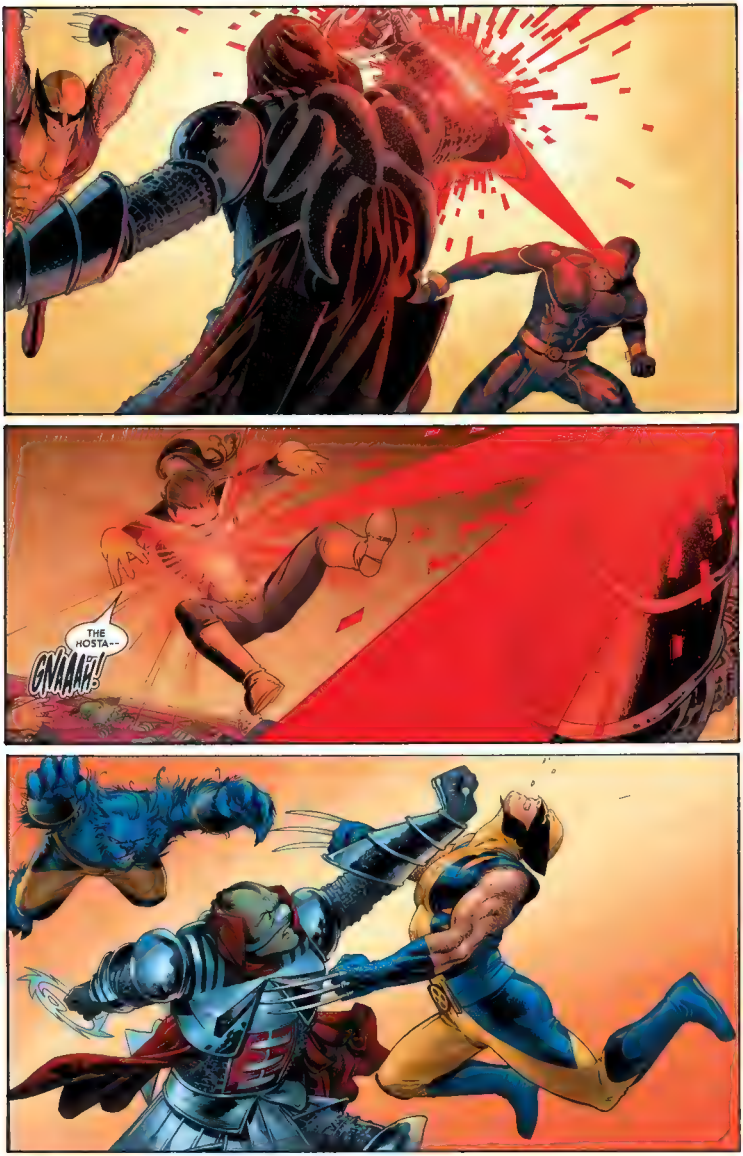
WHAT DO WE SEE?
SCANNER'S READING ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE WARM BODIES IN THE PENTHOUSE. SIX OF THEM CARRYING SOMETHING A LOT WARMER.
BOMBS?
OR GUNS. STATE-OF-THE-ART-OF-WAR.
WASN'T S.H.I.E.L.D. DEVELOPING SOME KIND OF THERMAL ORDNANCE?
THESE CLOWNS AIN'T S.H.I.E.L.D.
DEPLOYMENT'S AMATEUR HOUR--RIGHT FLANK'S WIDE OPEN.
THAT'S YOUR ENTRY POINT.
MAYBE.
OUR BIGGEST QUESTION MARK'S THE HOSTAGES. IF THEY'RE GONNA PLAY HERO.
THE HOSTAGES ARE FLAT ON THE GROUND, PRAYING OR PEEING.
YOU CAN READ THEM FROM HERE?
THIS IS WALTER LANGFORD'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE PRESERVATION OF VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE.
IT'S THE FIRST YEAR I'VE MISSED IT.
ANYWAY, OUR BIGGEST QUESTION ISN'T THE HOSTAGES, OR THE MEN WITH THE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL WEAPONRY.

OUR BIGGEST QUESTION IS HIM.
HMM.
A MOTH.
A SINGLE MOTH WOULD HAVE MADE MORE NOISE TOUCHING DOWN.

THEY'LL BE HERE SOON.
BRING 'EM ON, BABY.
WE ARE LOCKED AND WE ARE LOADED.
HEARTBREAKERS AND LIFETAKERS, AM I RIGHT?
OH YEAH!
BRING ON THE MUTIES!
OH YEAH!
ARE YOU FINISHED?

AAAHHHH!
THOUGHT I DIDN'T SEE YOU, HUH? THOUGHT YOU'D SNEAK BY?
SOLDIER...
...WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
MY SWIM COACH...
MISS FROST IS HERE. TURN UP YOUR SCRAMBLERS AND KEEP HER OUT OF YOUR HEADS. GO HOT ON WEAPONS.
THIS WILL HAPPEN FAST.
SWORE IF I EVER SAW HIM...
...AND I DID... HE WENT FLYING RIGHT BACK THROUGH THE WINDOW...
...JUST LIKE I ALWAYS IMAGINED...

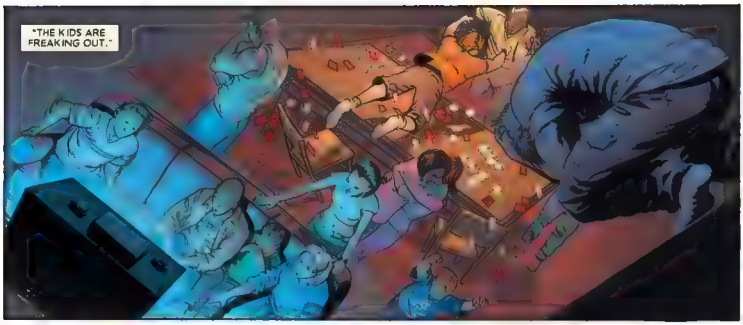
HMM.
X-MEN.
YOU DO NOT DISAPPOINT.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE TO GO ANY FURTHER.
I WASN'T AWARE IT HAD BEGUN.
WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT FROM THESE PEOPLE--
HE ALREADY GOT IT.
THIS WAS A TEST.
NOT A DIFFICULT ONE, IT'S TRUE, BUT YOU STILL PERFORMED ADMIRABLY.
AND DON'T MEDDLE WITH MY MIND, MISS FROST. YOU COULD NOT HOPE TO DECIPHER MY THINKINGS.
WHEREAS YOURS ARE ACUTELY TRANSPARENT.


THE HOSTA--
GNAAAR!!

DIAMOND.
I AM ORD, OF THE BREAKWORLD.
WE STUFF OUR PILLOWS WITH DIAMONDS.
I WAS WRONG. I AM DISAPPOINTED.
THE MIGHTY X-MEN. AND NOT ONE OF THEM STRONG ENOUGH TO .
WAIT--

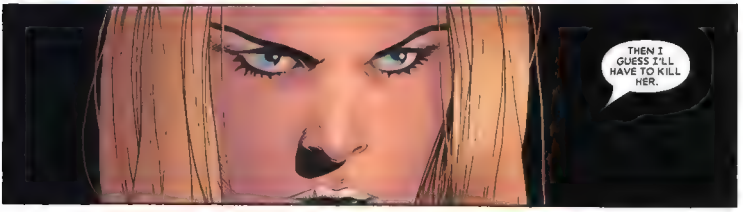
RRAAAAAHHHGHHRRR!
AHHH! NO! I CAN'T-- I--
LOCKHEED. YOU FOUND ME!
YOU ARE THE BEST X-DRAGON EVER.
HELL, I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE HIM TEAM LEADER.
LOOKS LIKE OUR FRIEND'S GONE.
WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A "THIS ISN'T OVER!"
THERE'S SIMPLY NO ETIQUETTE NOWADAYS.

ZERO CASUALTIES. WHICH IS GOOD.
BUT ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, WE JUST GOT THRASHED
SO. NOW LET'S DO THE HARD PART
WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE?
IS ANYBODY HURT? IS THIS ANOTHER MUTANT ATTACK?
EVERYBODY'S FINE. AND NO. THIS IS NOT MUTANT RELATED.
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE CAME BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE IN TROUBLE
WE X-MEN HAVE ALWAYS FELT IT IS OUR DUTY TO USE OUR SUPERPOWERS TO HELP NOT JUST OUR OWN COMMUNITY. BUT--
MISTER LANGFORD--
WHO FLEW AWAY? WAS THAT STORM?
(OH PLEASE)
DID IT LOOK LIKE STORM?
YOU CAN SEEEE BY OUR OUTFITS... THAT WE ARE ALL HE-EEROES...
WE DON'T YET KNOW WHO ATTACKED--
WE HEARD SHOOTING. DID YOU START THE SHOOTING?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE PEOPLE WE SAVED WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT ARE YOU CALLED, MISS?
UM. .WELL. I MOSTLY... SHADOWCAT IS WHAT I USED TO--
DO YOU HAVE A LICENSE FOR THAT BAT?
WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BAT?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
--MY FAMILY'S *EXTREMELY* GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR *GENERATIONS*, AND THE VERY YEAR IT BECOMES PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THAT I AM A MUTANT, I AM FOR THE *FIRST TIME* LEFT *OFF* THE GUEST LIST.
TELL ME, DEAR WALTER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE OBSESSED WITH THE WORKS OF LEROY NEIMAN?
I MEAN, SEXUALLY?
BEING HATED AND FEARED BY A WORLD THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND US BEATS THIS CIRCUS ANY DAY.
OH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO GROUCHY WHEN YOU GET CUT IN HALF.
DR. McCOY! DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS SO-CALLED *"MUTANT CURE"*?
I'M SORRY
"CURE"?

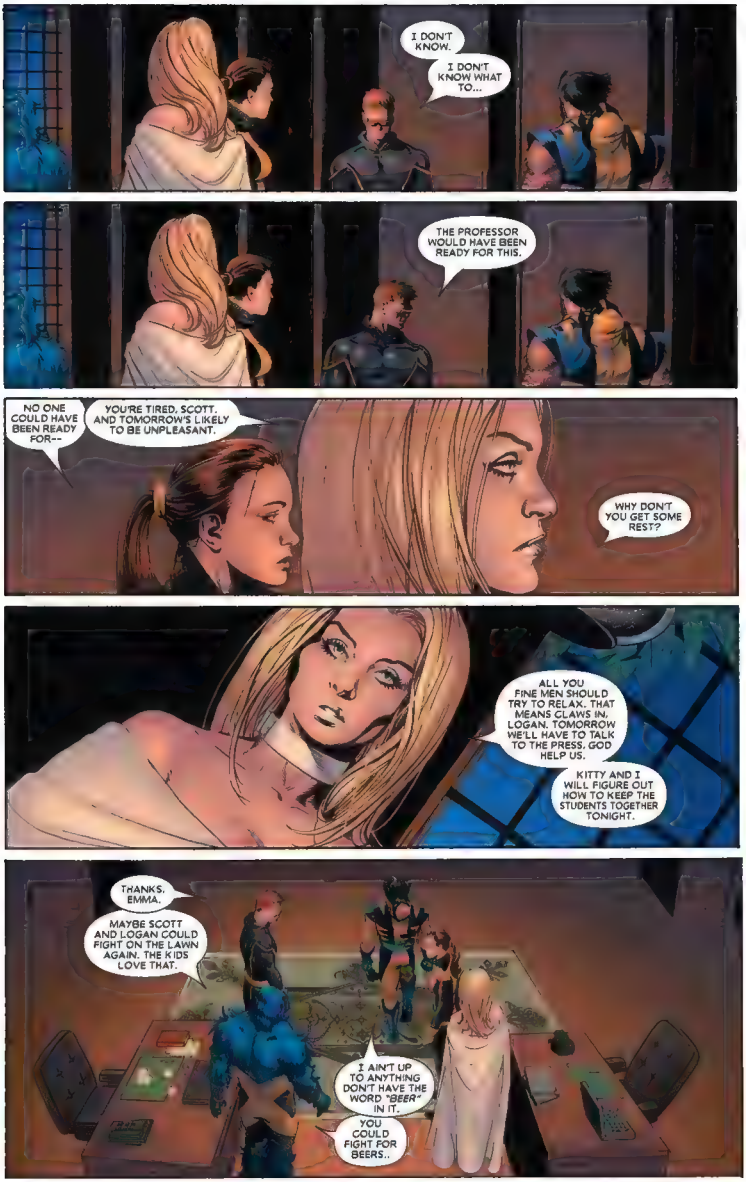

"THE KIDS ARE FREAKING OUT."

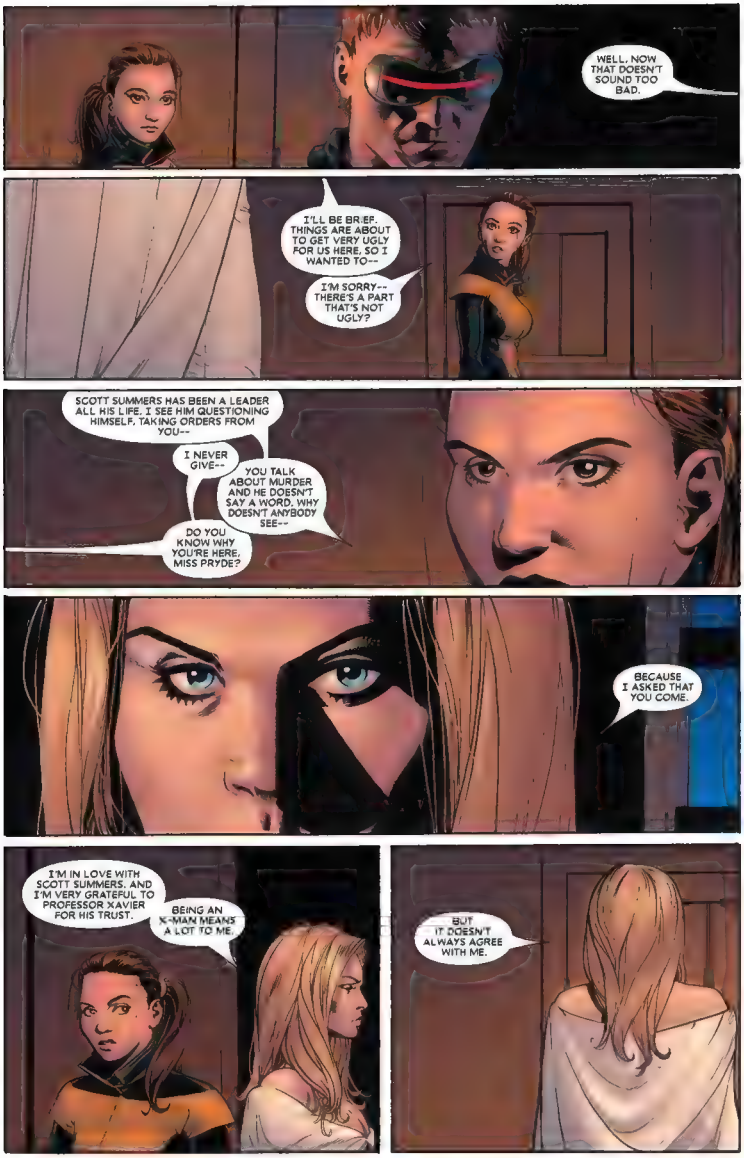
THEY'RE TERRIFIED. CONFUSED--SOME OF THEM ARE ECSTATIC. THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS.
AND THEY'RE GIVING ME A SODDING MIGRAINE. THE PSYCHIC TENSION IS UNBEARABLE.

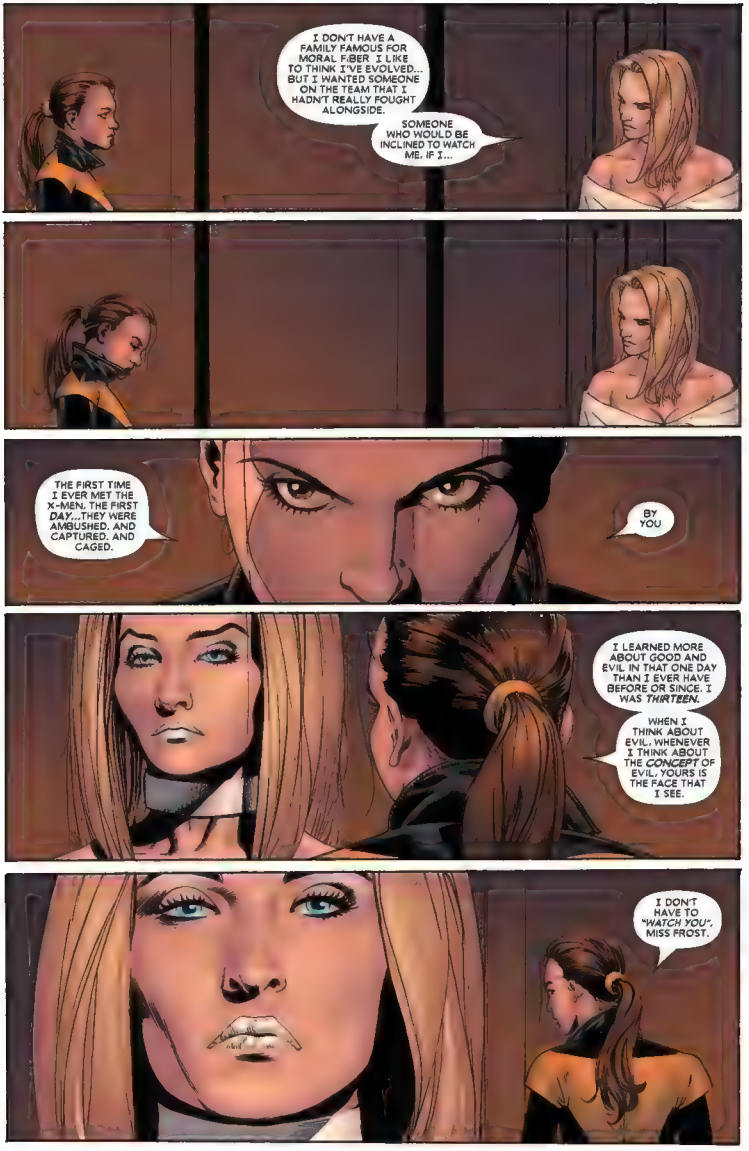
I GUESS FIRST WE HAVE TO FIND OUT IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF HOAX. FIND OUT WHO THIS WOMAN--
DR. KAVITA RAO
SHE'S ONE OF THE GREATEST GENETICISTS ALIVE. AND NOT PRONE TO PRANKS.
I DON'T KNOW THIS CORPORATION, "BENETECH". BUT IF DR. RAO SAYS SHE CAN REVERSE MUTATION, THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT SHE CAN.


THEN I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO KILL HER.

WELL THERE'S A THOUGHTFUL PLAN.
AND I SAY "AMEN" TO IT.
WOMAN CALLED ME A DISEASE. YOU KNOW HOW THAT FEELS TO ME? I CAN'T EVEN SHEATHE. MY CLAWS WON'T GO BACK.
SHE SAID WE WERE A DISEASE.
SHE SAID THE MUTANT STRAIN WAS A DISEASE.
THINK SHE KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE?
YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT WILL?
IF THIS MUTANT "CURE" DOES EXIST THEN THEY WILL GET HOLD OF IT. AND THEY WILL LINE US UP... DON'T YOU SEE WHERE THIS IS HEADING?
YEAH. TO MURDER. THE PROFESSOR WOULD BE SO PROUD.
AS USUAL, YOUR NAIVETE IS NEITHER CUTE NOR USEFUL.
SUPPOSE IT'S NOT THE GOVERNMENT THAT GETS IT? SUPPOSE IT'S SOME ANTI-MUTANT EXTREMIST?
OR OUR NEW BUDDY FROM ANOTHER WORLD?
ORD
WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GUY. HE DREW US OUT FOR A REASON.
YEAH. RIGHT BEFORE THE NICE DOCTOR LADY WENT PUBLIC. WE THINKIN' THAT'S A COINCIDENCE?


I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO...
THE PROFESSOR WOULD HAVE BEEN READY FOR THIS.
NO ONE COULD HAVE BEEN READY FOR--
YOU'RE TIRED, SCOTT. AND TOMORROW'S LIKELY TO BE UNPLEASANT.
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME REST?
ALL YOU FINE MEN SHOULD TRY TO RELAX. THAT MEANS CLAWS IN, LOGAN. TOMORROW WE'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE PRESS. GOD HELP US.
KITTY AND I WILL FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP THE STUDENTS TOGETHER TONIGHT.
THANKS, EMMA.
MAYBE SCOTT AND LOGAN COULD FIGHT ON THE LAWN AGAIN. THE KIDS LOVE THAT.
I AIN'T UP TO ANYTHING DON'T HAVE THE WORD "BEER" IN IT.
YOU COULD FIGHT FOR BEERS..


WELL, NOW THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD.
I'LL BE BRIEF. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET VERY UGLY FOR US HERE, SO I WANTED TO--
I'M SORRY-- THERE'S A PART THAT'S NOT UGLY?
SCOTT SUMMERS HAS BEEN A LEADER ALL HIS LIFE. I SEE HIM QUESTIONING HIMSELF, TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU--
I NEVER GIVE--
YOU TALK ABOUT MURDER AND HE DOESN'T SAY A WORD. WHY DOESN'T ANYBODY SEE--
DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE, MISS PRYDE?
BECAUSE I ASKED THAT YOU COME.
I'M IN LOVE WITH SCOTT SUMMERS. AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO PROFESSOR XAVIER FOR HIS TRUST.
BEING AN X-MAN MEANS A LOT TO ME.
BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH ME.


I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY FAMOUS FOR MORAL FIBER I LIKE TO THINK I'VE EVOLVED... BUT I WANTED SOMEONE ON THE TEAM THAT I HADN'T REALLY FOUGHT ALONGSIDE.
SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE INCLINED TO WATCH ME, IF I...
THE FIRST TIME I EVER MET THE X-MEN, THE FIRST *DAY*...THEY WERE AMBUSHED, AND CAPTURED, AND CAGED.
BY YOU
I LEARNED MORE ABOUT GOOD AND EVIL IN THAT ONE DAY THAN I EVER HAVE BEFORE OR SINCE. I WAS ***THIRTEEN.***
WHEN I THINK ABOUT EVIL, WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT THE *CONCEPT* OF EVIL, YOURS IS THE FACE THAT I SEE.
I DON'T HAVE TO *"WATCH YOU"*, MISS FROST.

I CAN SMELL YOU.
BeneTech
LABORATORIES

CLICK
DOCTOR RAO.
DOCTOR McCOY.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BERLIN, WASN'T IT? THE CLONING SEMINAR...
THERE ARE ARMED GUARDS WAITING OUTSIDE THE DOOR. AND ENOUGH GAS TO PUT *GALACTUS* TO SLEEP...
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD BREAK IN HERE?
DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T TRY?
YOU'VE THROWN A BOMB IN THE ROOM, DOCTOR. PEOPLE WILL DIE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE TODAY.
AND INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL LIVE. WILL LIVE DECENT, NORMAL LIVES.

YES, I SAW YOU TRUNDLING OUT YOUR POSTER CHILD.
NICE PIECE OF PUBLICITY TILDIE'S BUYING YOU. WELL PLAYED.
I'M NOT PLAYING, DR. McCOY. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY UNWANTED MUTATION AND I WILL GIVE MY LIFE TO HELP THEM. WHATEVER YOU AND YOUR X-MEN PLAN TO DO, I WON'T--
KAVITA.
STOP.
I'M NOT HERE TO DISCUSS THE ETHICS OF YOUR *"MUTANT CURE"*.
AND I'M NOT HERE TO DESTROY IT.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF IT WORKS.

Megan
Sands
Empire